



## News Release

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### **Men 40 and Older Encouraged To Get Prostate Checked**

*Free Screenings offered throughout September*

(Salt Lake City, UT) — Free screenings for prostate cancer are available to men in Utah throughout September. As September is National Prostate Awareness Month, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and the Utah Cancer Action Network (UCAN) are encouraging men 40 years and older to talk to their doctor about prostate cancer screening options.

“The key in this disease is early detection,” said Steven N. Gange, M.D., F.A.C.S. of the Western Urological Clinic and Co-Chair of UCAN. “Early stage prostate cancer is very curable.”

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men. It typically strikes with no symptoms and will kill more than 30,000 men in 2005. According to the American Cancer Society’s Facts and Figures, it is estimated that in 2005 there will be 232,090 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States. An estimated, 1,150 of those cases will be in Utah.

“What is troubling with prostate cancer is that it doesn’t often cause symptoms until it spreads,” Dr. Gange said. “It is very important for men to talk to their doctors about prostate cancer screenings because early detection and treatment greatly increases the odds of curing the disease.”

According to the American Cancer Society, one in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. Prostate cancer rates have continued to increase, but at slower rates than years past.

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One way to screen for prostate cancer is by using Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) testing. PSA testing is a blood test used to check men for prostate cancer. A digital rectal exam, given by a doctor is also frequently used.

For information on dates and times of the free screenings, call UDOH's Health Resource Line at 1-888-222-2542 or visit UCAN's website at [www.ucan.cc](http://www.ucan.cc).

Working in conjunction with numerous organizations and related medical services, screening and support programs, UCAN's mission is to reduce cancer incidence and mortality.

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting health lifestyles.*